

July 12, 2004

***Reminder: Briefing On Alzheimer's Research Tomorrow
July 13, 2004, 334 Cannon***

Dear Colleague:

In September, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the first proclamation designating November of that year "National Alzheimer's Awareness Month". In 1984 President Reagan signed the bill that authorized the National Institute on Aging to fund the Alzheimer's Disease Centers. A decade later, this vigorous President we all remember again helped to raise awareness about Alzheimer's Disease when he wrote his courageous letter to the American public revealing that he had contracted Alzheimer's, the disease that would ultimately take his life.

We recently introduced H.R. 4595, the "Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004" in order to increase funding for Alzheimer's research. We feel that it would be a fitting tribute to President Reagan if Congress took action now to speed the day when a medical breakthrough is made that ends the terrible scourge of Alzheimer's for all time.

To enhance your understanding of Alzheimer's disease you should have received an invitation from the Alzheimer's Association to a briefing on July 13 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 334 of the Canon House Office Building. The briefing will feature a panel discussion on Alzheimer's disease that will focus on new treatments in the pipeline and how the federal government can assist in reducing their time to market. We encourage you and your staff to attend this briefing.

Through the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, we are leading efforts to find a cure for Alzheimer's. Tomorrow's briefing will provide an opportunity for interested Members and Staff to explore many of the key issues and challenges our nation faces in confronting this disease. If you would like to become a cosponsor of H.R. 4595 or if you want to learn more about the work of the Task Force, please contact either Nicole Encarnacao in Rep. Ed Markey's office at 225-2836 or Nick Manetto in Rep. Chris Smith's office at 225-3765.

Sincerely,

Edward Markey
Member of Congress
Co-Chair

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress
Co-Chair